

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 01754 171724Z

64

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 /095 W

----- 053397

R 171345Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8693

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1754

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PINR, BC, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET CHARGE' ESTABLISHES RESIDENT MISSION IN GABORONE

REF: A) GABORONE 1722; B) STATE A-4180

1. ON SEPTEMBER 16 AT RECEPTION GIVEN BY JAPANESE AMBASSADOR, EMBOFFS HAD FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO MEET NEW SOVIET CHARGE' IN GABORONE, (FNU) MARKOV AND HIS WIFE, TAMARA. MRS. MARKOV SAID THEY HAD FLOWN IN FROM LUSAKA ON SEPTEMBER 13. ANSWERING QUESTION POSED IN REF A, MARKOV CONFIRMED THAT AMBASSADOR SOLODOVNIKOV (RESIDENT IN LUSAKA) WAS NOT ACCREDITED TO BOTSWANA; MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, SOLODOVNIKOV WAS PLANNING COME DOWN FROM LUSAKA TO REPRESENT THE USSR AT THE BOTSWANA TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS THE END OF THIS MONTH. MARKOV SAID HE WAS HERE TO OPEN A NEW MISSION AND THAT THE SITUATION CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF A RESIDENT SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN GABORONE WAS NOT YET CLEAR.

2. MARKOV'S ARE CURRENTLY STAYING AT HOLIDAY INN, BUT SOON

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 01754 171724Z

WILL MOVE TO TEMPORARY HOUSING LOCATED FOR THEM BY GOB.

THEY WILL THEN EITHER LEASE OR BUILD PERMANENT HOUSING. MEANWHILE, MARKOV IS LOOKING FOR OFFICE SPACE IN GABORONE. THEY HAVE A SEVEN-YEAR OLD "STEP GRANDSON" WITH THEM WHOM THEY PLAN TO ENROLL IN LOCAL ENGLISH-TYPE SCHOOL (NORTHSIDE SCHOOL). MRS. MARKOV SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL (SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN HER HUSBAND) AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY, ALBEIT WITH A HEAVY ACCENT. BOTH APPEAR VERY FRIENDLY, ALTHOUGH MARKOV HAS MORE PROFESSIONAL RESERVE THAN HIS WIFE. HE APPEARED QUITE PROUD THAT THE EARLIER THAT DAY HAD SPENT ONE HOUR DISCUSSING WORLD AFFAIRS DURING HIS INITIAL CALL ON MIN EXTAFF MOGWE.

3. MARKOV'S HAVE SPENT AT LEAST TWO TOURS IN JAPAN AND MARKOV SPEAKS JAPANESE. HIS WIFE IS OUTSPOKEN ABOUT HER DISLIKE FOR JAPAN, WHICH SHE DID NOT EXPLAIN. THEY CAME TO GABORONE DIRECTLY FROM ASSIGNMENT IN MOSCOW.

4. COMMENT: A) RECENT SELECTION OF THE AFRICAN EXPERT SOLODOVNIKOV FOR LUSAKA (REF B) AND THE PERSONABLE MARKOV'S IN GABORONE, PLUS THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOVIET AMBASSADOR HERE, BEAR OUT OBVIOUS IMPORTANCE THAT USSR IS ATTACHING TO SOUTHERN AFRICA. WITH BUSY AND RELATIVELY GREGARIOUS CHINESE MISSION ALSO LOCATED HERE, WE SHOULD WITNESS SOME REAL SINO-SOVIET COMPETITION TO OUTDO EACH OTHER IN CHARMING THE BATSWANA WHILE KEEPING CAREFUL WATCH ON EACH OTHER.

(B) EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BIO INFO DEPARTMENT, MOSCOW, OR TOKYO MAY HAVE ON MARKOV'S AND PARTICULARLY ANY INDICATION THAT MARKOV IS AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER (WE MUST ASSUME HE IS). ALBERTI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GABORO01754
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760352-0125
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760950/aaaabqlq.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GABORONE 1722, 76 STATE A-4180
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET CHARGE' ESTABLISHES RESIDENT MISSION IN GABORONE
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PINR, BC, UR, (MARKOV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006